

Dr. Orna Fisher

Changing the face of plastic surgery

By Lisa Ferguson

Dr. Orna Fisher discovered her life's calling in the midst of an untraditional tattooing session. As a medical student fulfilling a plastic surgery rotation at the University of Southern California, she was given the task with guiding an ink-filled tattoo needle over the reconstructed breast of a cancer patient to create a new, aesthetically pleasing nipple for the woman.

"It was amazing to me. Just finishing that phase (of reconstruction) made the biggest difference (to the patient, who was amazed as well)," Fisher recalled. "A lot of times it's just finishing that last phase that makes somebody realize the (cancer) process is over. She was very emotional seeing that."

Fisher was so moved that she changed her specialty from ear, nose and throat (ENT or otolaryngology) to plastic surgery. After undergoing years of state-of-the-art training, last year she opened The Fisher Center for Aesthetic & Reconstructive Sur-

gery, located at 5380 S. Rainbow Blvd., Suite 210, Las Vegas.

According to the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners, Fisher is one of only six female plastic surgeons in Southern Nevada (this includes 2 women currently in residency). A board-certified general surgeon, she finished her residency at the University of Nevada School of Medicine before completing a plastic surgery fellowship at Oregon Health & Science University.

"I really diversified my education by doing every phase of it at a different institution. I thought it was really important to see what other places were doing," she said.

Fisher's love of medicine began during childhood. "My mom was a scientist and I was always with her in the lab, and I got a lot of exposure to the sciences." She became particularly interested in biology and anatomy. "When I was little, doctors used to make house calls, so I thought that was really cool."